Yukon
Government

YUKON FOREST SUMMIT

April 10, 11 & 12, 2001

Whitehorse, Yukon

Workshop Report

"What We Heard"

August, 2001

This report is a record of what was said by participants at the Yukon Forest Summit. It contains a diversity of viewpoints and opinions. The opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily represent a consensus of opinion, nor do they necessarily reflect the positions or policies of the Yukon Government

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Message from the Ministers

The Forest Summit was hosted by the Yukon Government to foster open and frank discussion on forest management and development in the Yukon. At the Summit, we committed to listening to Yukon people about their concerns on how our forests are managed. We also asked participants to come forward with practical recommendations on how forest management and development could be improved in the territory. This report documents what people said, rather than government policy. By all accounts, the Summit was successful in identifying a wide range of ideas, concerns and suggestions.

The Yukon government takes its role in forest management and development in the Yukon very seriously. While the federal government, through the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is responsible for the delivery of forest management in the territory, how our forests are managed has a significant impact on our economy, our environment and our society.

We will be using the results of the Summit to develop informed Yukon Government positions and policies on forestry matters for ongoing input to DIAND as required. The results will also be used to help form our long-term vision for forest management and development in the Yukon in anticipation of devolution. A first step will be the development of a clear Yukon government policy framework and approach to forest management and development in the territory. The comments and recommendations made at the Summit will be instrumental in developing this coordinated Yukon government approach.

In closing, we would like to thank all people who attended the Summit for their valuable time, ideas and recommendations. Without your participation, the Summit would not have been possible.

Yours Sincerely,

Scott Kent
Minister Economic Development

Dale Eftoda
Minster of Renewable Resources

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Executive Summary

The Yukon Forest Summit was hosted by the Yukon Government and held on April 10, 11 and 12, 2001 in Whitehorse, Yukon. The purpose of the Summit was to facilitate broad public discussion on key forestry issues in the territory.

Summit participants included a wide cross section of representatives from territorial and federal governments, First Nation governments, mandated boards and councils, industry organizations, conservation organizations, businesses and individuals. This report is a record of what was said by these participants at the Summit. It contains a diversity of opinions. These opinions do not necessarily reflect the positions of the Yukon Government.

What will happen with the results of the summit ?

The Yukon Government intends to use the results of the Summit:

- ***to develop informed Yukon Government positions and policies on forestry matters in the territory, for ongoing input to DIAND as required; and,***
- ***to help form the Yukon Government's long term vision for forest management and development in the Yukon, in anticipation of devolution.***

Seven Plenary Speakers

The Forest Summit featured seven plenary presentations by invited speakers to serve as a backdrop for generating public discussion. The seven presentations were:

1. The Yukon Forest Resource: *Ed van Randen*
2. Forest Management Planning in the Yukon: *Shawn Francis*
3. Current Status of the Yukon Forest industry: *Terry Kennedy*
4. Opportunities and Constraints for Developing a Value Added Forest Products Industry in the Yukon: *Peter Drake*
5. Forest Tenure Options for the Yukon: *Michael Heit*
6. The Algonquin Forest Authority *Bill Brown*
7. Integrating Forest Management and Industry Development Interests: *Brad Stelfox*

A compendium of the presentation materials is available upon request from YTG.

Five Break-out sessions

The highlight of the Forest Summit, and the main focus of this report, is the public dialogue organized around five main discussion topics. The five topics and the key points made by participants in relation to these topics are as follows:

Discussion Topic 1

Key Issues and Questions for the Summit

Participants were asked to compile a list of key issues facing Forest Management in the Yukon. The list was grouped by the facilitators into the following categories:

Key Issues

- Stronger Government(s) leadership in forestry, and better coordination between Government(s) which hold (or will hold) forest jurisdiction is needed.
- Land use and forest management planning in the Yukon remains outstanding, and no clear models exist for completion.
- The Forest Industry requires more security to allow investment; Forest tenure is a must.
- Continued attention to incorporating and respecting all values and interests in the forest.
- A way to deal with forest planning where Land Claims remain outstanding.
- First Nation capacities and self-governance are at a varied stages of development, yet their participation is needed for integrated forest planning.
- The role of the communities - How do they get involved and stay involved?

Discussion Topic 2

Forest Management Planning in the Yukon

Participants were highly supportive of forest management planning, as it is needed to establish a vision for the forests and resolve management issues.

The discussion groups brainstormed the requirements and principles of forest planning. An executive summary of these sessions is as follows :

Principles of Forest Planning

- Plans should be comprehensive, done at the landscape level, and involve comprehensive consultation of all interests.
- Planning should be timely, and allow for interim harvesting while planning takes place.
- Planning must adhere to the requirements of First Nation Final Agreements.

- Plans should address all forest users, including timber and non-timber interests.
- Most participants supported a community-based approach, however some participants stated that a community-based process may not work for the private sector.

Discussion Topic 3

Forest Industry Development in the Yukon

Participants were asked to address the following questions in their break-out groups. A summary of Questions and Answers is presented.

Q. What Type of Forest Industry Do We Want?

What type of Industry do we want ?

- A timber industry which can provide important jobs, create spin-offs, and strengthen the economy.
- Development should include all aspects of the forest economy, including logging, milling, trapping, tourism, outfitting, wilderness guiding, etc.
- Industry must be economically viable on its own and be able to adapt to market changes.
- Industry must reflect regional differences in markets, community interests and resources.
- Operators should decide what type of industry to develop, based on resources and markets.
- A diversity of small, medium and large industry players should be supported.
- Monopolies should be avoided.
- Value added operations should be encouraged.

Q. What Can Governments Do to Assist the Development of the Industry?

What can Government do to help ?

- Develop new, improved longer-term timber tenures.
- Complete Timber Supply Analysis, Annual Allowable Cut determinations, and forest management plans.
- Facilitate the development of improved skills and infrastructure.
- Plan and facilitate improved access to timber areas.
- Streamline government planning and permitting processes.

Discussion Topic 4

Forest Tenure and Allocation for the Yukon

Discussion groups gave support for improving timber tenures, as long term tenures are required for financial security and improved tenures will help to create a more stable and environmentally sustainable industry.

The Forest Industry stated it's unequivocal need for long term tenure as soon as possible. It was suggested that transitional tenures are needed immediately while long term tenures are being developed.

Principles of Forest Tenure

A number of principles for the development of new tenures were forwarded:

- All forest values and interests need to be addressed in the design of tenures.
- There should be Yukon-wide consistency in the tenures, with regional adaptation.
- A diversity of tenure types is needed to accommodate the diversity of operators.

The Tenure Process

In regards to the process for developing new tenures:

- A government and stakeholder group should develop Yukon-wide, broad tenure guidelines.
- Ideally, land claims, forest management plans, long term Timber Supply Analyses (TSA) and Annual Allowable Cuts (AAC) should be completed before allocating long term tenures.
- In the absence of the above, "comfort cut" harvest levels and areas should be identified with stakeholder and community participation. Comfort cut harvest levels should be conservative.

Allocation of Tenures

In regards to the allocation of timber tenures:

- Allocations should be based on proposals and involve community and public review.
- One option for an allocation process could be as follows:
  - (i) Government sets broad regional social / economic and environmental objectives in coordination with community consultation and input.
  - (ii) Government asks for expressions of interest for tenures from industry.
  - (iii) Industry identifies level and type of interest.
  - (iv) Based on interest, government finalizes the type of tenures to be developed.
  - (v) Government issues a request for proposals
  - (vi) Industry submits proposals.
  - (vii) Proposals are open for public review and comment.
  - (viii) Government evaluates the proposals based on identified criteria.
  - (ix) Government allocates and awards the tenures.

Discussion Topic 5

Where Do We Go From Here?

Don't Delay

A key message was the desire for this summit to provide direction to governments and the Premier. " Don't delay. Don't drop the ball. We need to move quickly. "

Principles for Action

Principles for taking action:

- All forest related values, interests and uses must be considered.
- We need to think long term.
- We need to follow the provisions of the Final Agreements.
- Community-based involvement is important.
- Planning processes must include all stakeholders. This includes industry, communities, the public and all land users.

Government Cooperation and Leadership

Government leadership and coordination:

- Governments, including YTG, need to take a stronger leadership role in forestry.
- Governments should clarify their respective roles and responsibilities.
- We need stronger cooperation and coordination between all levels of government, including YTG, DIAND and First Nations.

Immediate Action

Immediate action items:

1. Attention is needed in the Watson Lake and Haines Junction areas to bring resolution and clarity to forest planning and timber availability.
2. An intergovernmental MOU or Accord should be developed to support a community-based forest management planning and tenure process.
3. Work on transitional tenures.

Specific Action Items

Specific action items:

1. Commit to completing forest management plans.
2. Governments must establish a credible Timber Supply Analysis (TSA) and determine an Annual Allowable Cut (AAC).
3. Information related to forest inventories and timber supply needs to be made public.
4. Governments need to develop a forest industry strategy.
5. Governments need to develop more efficient permitting and planning processes.
6. Governments should lead industry promotion and infrastructure development.
7. Governments and stakeholders need to develop new, long-term timber tenure models for industry.
8. A variety of tenure options should be explored and developed.
9. Governments need to make transitional tenures and interim wood supplies available as soon as possible to meet the immediate timber needs of industry.

"What We Heard"

1.0 Introduction

This report is a written record of the Yukon Forest Summit held on April 10, 11 and 12, 2001 in Whitehorse, Yukon. The Summit was organized and hosted by the Yukon Government.

1.1 Purpose of the Summit

The purpose of the Summit was to facilitate broad public and stakeholder discussion on key forestry issues in the territory. Discussion was focused on the following topics:

1. What type of forest management is appropriate for the Yukon?
2. What type of forest industry is suitable for the Yukon?
3. What can governments and stakeholders do to help achieve improved forest management and development in the territory?

The Yukon Government has a keen interest in how Yukon forests are managed. It is recognized that the federal government, through the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) has the current jurisdictional mandate for forest management in the Yukon. Forest management, however, also has serious implications for a number of areas for which the Yukon government is responsible, such as economic development, wildlife, trapping, tourism, recreation and conservation. As well, negotiations are now underway for the devolution of forest management responsibilities from DIAND to the Yukon. Decisions made by DIAND now on forest management and development will have a profound effect on the future conditions that YTG may be inheriting.

The Yukon government intends to use the results of the Summit as follows:

a) They will be used to develop informed Yukon Government positions and policies on forestry matters in the territory, for ongoing input to DIAND as required; and,
b) They will be used to help form the Yukon Government's long term vision for forest management and development in the Yukon, in anticipation of devolution.

1.2 Summit Participants

The Summit was open to the public. Invitations were sent out to an extensive mailing list, advertisements were placed in local newspapers, and public service announcements were placed on CBC radio.

Official registration at the Summit was 104 people. From 50 to 100 people were in attendance at any one time. Participants included a wide cross section of representatives from territorial and federal governments, First Nation governments, mandated boards and councils, industry organizations, conservation organizations, businesses and individuals. A complete list of participants is included in Appendix C.

1.3 How this report is organized

This report is organized to be consistent with the Summit agenda. (see Appendix A)

During the Summit, discussions in each session tended to be broad and covered a variety of topics. For the sake of report organization, comments are organized according to which topic they refer to rather than which session they were mentioned in. For example, if a comment on forest management planning was made during the session on tenure, that comment is included in the section on forest management planning rather than in the section on tenure.

This report does not cover everything that was said at the Summit in word for word detail. The body of the report summarizes only the key points that were made by participants during the group and plenary discussions. A more detailed record of selected specific comments is included in Appendix B.

As well, this report does not record the presentations in any detail. Many of the presentations are included in the report: *Yukon Forest Summit: Compendium of Presentations*. (See Appendix C)

1.4 Acknowledgements:

A number of people contributed to making the Yukon Forest Summit a success.

The organizing committee included: Yukon Government staff, (Bob Kuiper, Glenn Hart, Don Hutton, Jerome McIntyre, Ross Burnett, Ken Kiemele, Manon Moreau and Ed van Randen); and representatives from the Yukon Forest Industry Association (Jackie McBride-Dickson); the Southeast Yukon Lumberman's Association (Tom Cove); the Yukon Conservation Society (Karen Baltgailis); and the Council of Yukon First Nations (Tim Cant).

The two lead facilitators, Glenn Sigurdson and Partick Duffy, provided workshop planning advice, chaired the plenary discussion sessions and prepared discussion notes.

The group discussion facilitators included Bob Kuiper, Jerome McIntyre, Mark Hoppe, Nansi Cunningham, Bob Friesen, Mal Malloch and Patrick Duffy.

A number of people and organizations prepared and delivered plenary presentations. These people are noted on the agenda in Appendix A.

We also thank the people who took the time to review this document prior to its release.

2.0 Day 1: Theme: *Managing the Forest Resource*

2.1 Opening Addresses:

The Summit was opened with a prayer by Don Trudeau.

The opening prayer was followed by opening addresses by Premier Pat Duncan, Renewable Resources Minister Dale Eftoda, and Chief Bob Charlie. Some of the messages noted in the opening addresses were:

- Forests are important to our social, economic and environmental well being.
- It is important to respect Yukon First Nation Final Agreements in how we approach forest management and development in the Yukon.
- It is important to respect all values and interests in the forests.
- This Summit will be valuable in identifying key issues and directions for governments to consider.

After the opening addresses, the facilitator charged the attendees with the protocols of respect for other views, sharing time in the discussion sessions and keeping to the allotted time. The facilitator requested that participants:

- share views frankly and openly;
- discuss information, ideas, and approaches with each other;
- understand and respect the range of views, values, and interests; and,
- identify areas of common ground, and where differences exist, identify the reasons underlying those differences.

2.2 Opening Plenary Presentations:

Overview of Yukon Forest Resource: Ed van Randen.

This presentation included a brief description of the nature of Yukon's timber resource, the current status of forest inventories in the territory, and key considerations regarding the management and development of timber resources in the Yukon.

Different Uses of Yukon Forests: Panel Discussion.

A panel discussion of invited representatives was held to highlight the different uses of the Yukon Forest Resource, give a flavor for the complexity of these multiple uses, and to raise awareness of current issues facing forest users.

The key messages and the names of the participants are as follows:

The Yukon Forest Industry Association (Leonard Peterson and Jackie McBride-Dickson) noted that:

- The forest industry is still in its infancy and is poorly understood in the Yukon.
- There are good opportunities for the forest industry here.
- The industry can provide benefits to communities.
- The industry needs tenure to help create certainty.
- The current timber tenure process is problematic.
- We need to develop an improved timber tenure process.

The Southeast Yukon Lumberman's Association (Les Laverdure) noted that:

- It is important to work together in the forests and respect each other's values.
- There is a need for less bureaucracy and paperwork in the timber allocation process.
- Landscape planning is needed to determine what wood should be made available to industry.
- Industry should make progress on moving forward.

The Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon (Blaine Walden) noted that:

- Tourism is important to the Yukon economy and has a high potential for growth.
- The industry is dependant on natural areas, scenery, and wilderness.
- The industry needs certainty on where these assets can be maintained.
- Tourism interests must be considered in forest management and land use plans.
- Proper consultation is needed with the industry on these matters.

The Yukon Trappers Association (Jean Legare) noted that:

- Trapping is the oldest industry in Canada and is sustainable.
- Trapping needs old growth forests to provide habitats for species such as marten.
- The best trapping areas are often in areas that have the highest timber values.
- Small-scale timber cutting is better for fur-bearers than large-scale cutting.
- Broad landscape level planning is needed to address trapping interests.

The Yukon Outfitters Association (Richard Roger) noted that:

- Outfitting employs many people and is significant to the Yukon economy.
- Healthy forests are important to the outfitting industry.

- Cut blocks and access can have both positive and negative impacts on outfitting.
- We have to work together to develop an industry that is sustainable.
- Proper consultation with outfitters is key.

Aboriginal Perspectives on Yukon Forests: Chief Bob Johnson.

Chief Johnson covered a number of important forestry related concerns for Yukon First Nations. Key messages included:

- First Nations don't feel adequately involved in forestry in the Yukon.
- To date, Yukon First Nations have had forestry workshops and have had forestry related businesses and mills.
- Governments need to work more with First Nations on land claims, devolution, planning and tenures as they relate to forestry.
- Each First Nation has it's own approach to forest management and development.
- First Nations need to be fully involved in community-based forest planning.
- First Nations want to be more involved in planning and undertaking inventories.
- First Nations need additional people, resources and money to be allocated to forestry.
- Capacity building within Yukon First Nations is a priority.

2.3 Workshop Discussions: Key Issues and Questions for the Summit

After the plenary presentations, participants divided into seven breakout groups to discuss: "What key questions and issues need to be addressed in this Summit?" This was followed by a plenary session on the same topic.

The key forest management and development issues identified by participants at the Summit are listed below. The comments have been organized by sub-headings:

A) The Role of Government(s):

This was the most frequently noted issue. Specific comments include:

- There is a lack of coordination between DIAND, YTG and First Nations on forestry issues.
- There appear to be overlapping government jurisdictions on forestry.

- Governments' roles and responsibilities on forestry are poorly defined and often misunderstood.
- DIAND Forest Resources is perceived as being dysfunctional and unresponsive. It also has a high staff turnover.
- There is a lack of government leadership on forestry in the Yukon.
- There is a lack of trust in governments on forestry matters.
- Governments have poor relationships with forestry stakeholders.
- The uncertainty around devolution of forestry is problematic.

B) Forest Management Planning:

This was a major concern of participants and specific issues mentioned were:

- There is an absence of land use and forest management plans in the Yukon.
- There is no clearly understood or accepted model for forest planning in the Yukon.
- Forest management plans need to respect the requirements of the First Nation Final Agreements.
- There is often a lack of linkage or consistency between different resource plans in the Yukon.
- There is often a lack of good information for planning.

C) Forest Industry Development:

This was a major concern of participants and specific issues mentioned were:

- There is no clear consensus on what kind of industry is best for the Yukon.
- There is a need for industry to work better with local communities and local interests.
- The industry is experiencing hard times. There is an urgent need to resolve industry issues quickly.
- Timber tenures and allocations were noted as key industry concerns.
- The current lack of secure timber tenures is a major problem for the forest industry.
- The Yukon needs to develop a new and improved model for long term sustainable timber tenures.
- The Yukon needs to develop a clear model for allocating timber tenures.

D) Respecting all Values and Interests:

The need for a vision and decision making process that reflects all interests was raised. Specific comments included:

- There is currently no accepted model on how to balance different timber and non-timber interests in forest management and development in the Yukon.
- There are often different, unrealistic and competing visions for our forests in the Yukon.
- Governments should take the lead on developing a long-term vision for Yukon forests that considers all different values and interests.

E) Yukon Land Claims:

Land claims issues were also noted. These included:

- Areas without Final Agreements are problematic for the establishment of timber tenures and industry.
- Different First Nations are at different stages in completing or implementing their Final Agreements. Therefore, they are also at different levels of readiness to participate in forest management and industry development in their areas.

F) Community interests and roles:

Community issues were also noted. These included:

- There is no clear understanding of how communities should be involved in forest management and development in the Yukon.
- There is a need to reconcile industry's immediate need for tenure with the community's long term need for planning.

Following the plenary discussion on key forestry issues, Mr. Glenn Sigurdson, the plenary facilitator, made a presentation summarizing what he had heard so far. His points were noted on a diagram in the shape of a wheel, shown on the following page:

Leadership This was identified as the key issue and located at the hub of the wheel. Developing strong leadership was noted as necessary for all issues, especially in regards to creating a vision for Yukon forests and taking appropriate action.

Governance clarify legal obligations, UFA requirements, and government roles and mandates.

Planning structures: strategic / landscape level planning, recognizing all values, industry realities and plans, and monitoring and evaluating.

Forest ecosystem health: identify cumulative environmental impacts of all industries and uses, a protected areas strategy, fire management, beetle control, salvage, selected harvest, climate change and forest management issues.

Information: share common information that is credible, reliable, and accessible. It also included the need for best practices in gathering information, using existing information, and considering both scientific and traditional knowledge. The need to use standardized formats and the need to fill information gaps was also noted.

Community based forestry: the need for human and financial resources and autonomy, the need to function as a community in a larger community, and the need to work with First Nations.

Tenure: develop a sustainable tenure model with consistent rules that respects different values and uses of the forest, facilitates value added operations, and considers net economic benefits.

Yukon land claims: to resolve and finalize outstanding claims, follow the provisions of UFA Chapter 17, and the need to identify how tenures could be established in areas without a settled claim.

Dealing with differences: develop common terms, trust and consensus, and at the same time respect differences in values (social, economic, environmental). The need to have a process for dealing with differences was also noted.

Getting on with it: There is a sense of urgency to do something and move ahead safely despite incomplete plans. The outcome of this summit should provide direction to governments, including an action plan (with tenure options) to achieve the vision.

2.4 Plenary Presentations on Forest Management

In the afternoon of the first day, three plenary presentations were given on the topic of management planning.

Existing Forest Management Commitments: Barney Smith and Bob Friesen

The presenters referenced the Umbrella Final Agreement, the Yukon Forest Strategy and the Canada Forest Accord and noted the importance of respecting these commitments. The speakers also noted the role of international interest groups in influencing sustainable forest management practices.

Forest Management Planning in the Yukon: Shawn Francis

Mr. Francis outlined key components of the current forest planning regime in the Yukon, noted some key planning issues and gave possible options for addressing these issues.

Current Community-Based FMP Processes: Mike Crawshay and Ryan Perry

Mr. Crawshay reviewed the planning process in Haines Junction. Mr. Perry reviewed the planning process in Teslin. The presenters emphasized the importance of following a community-based approach, taking all values and interests into consideration, working with local knowledge and technical expertise, and respecting the provisions of the UFA. They also noted issues related to the capacity of RRCs to lead these processes, the need for resources, and the slow timing of progress in regards to meeting industry's needs.

2.5 Workshop Discussions: Forest Management Planning in the Yukon

The plenary presentations and facilitator discussions during the first afternoon took longer than was expected. Hence, the group discussions on forest management planning did not take place until the second day.

When the forest management planning discussion groups did get together, they were asked to identify what kind of forest management is needed in the Yukon, and how this planning should proceed. The key points made at the Summit in relation to this topic are summarized below:

A) Support for Forest Management Planning:

Participants expressed strong support for forest management planning. Comments included:

- Planning is needed to resolve resource management issues.

- Forest management planning gives a vision for the forests and sets a secure foundation for forest development for all users.

B) Scope and Timing for Planning:

A number of points were made on the scope and timing for plans. Comments included:

- Plans should be comprehensive and reflect a common broad vision for Yukon forests.
- Ideally, higher level land use plans should be done before forest management plans.
- Forest management planning should be at the landscape level, to provide a basis for more detailed development plans.
- Forest management planning should be timely, and allow for interim harvesting while planning takes place.

C) Forest Management Planning Principles:

A number of general planning principles were noted by participants. These included:

- Planning should follow the requirements of the UFA regarding roles and processes.
- Plans should address all forest interests, including timber and non-timber interests such as tourism, trapping, outfitting, wildlife, protected areas and cultural interests.
- Plans should recognize the pre-existing rights and interests of all forest users.
- Plans must result in sustainable forests for all users of the forest.
- Plans must consider the impacts of all uses, including non-timber uses, on forest resources.
- Fire behavior and management must be considered.
- Forest management plans should be coordinated with other related resource plans.
- Plans should recognize and adapt to regional differences.

D) Planning Process:

A number of comments were made on the process for planning. Comments included:

- All UFA requirements for planning processes must be followed.
- A community-based approach was supported by most participants. Some participants, however, were concerned that a community-based approach may not work for the private sector.

- Consultation must be meaningful and involve all stakeholders and forest users.
- Planning processes can be costly and lead to stakeholder burnout.
- Keep planning processes simple whenever possible.

E) Information Management:

Participants noted the importance of using good information. Comments included:

- Use existing information wherever possible.
- Consider all sources of information, including both scientific and traditional knowledge.
- Ensure that the information is accurate and reliable.
- Make sure that information can be shared and accessible to all users.

3.0 Day 2: Theme: The Yukon Forest Industry

3.1 Forest Industry Plenary Presentations

The Current Status of the Yukon Forest Industry: Terry Kennedy.

Mr. Kennedy gave a brief overview of the current timber industry, outlined some of the key conditions and issues facing the industry, and identified some key considerations for industry development..

Opportunities and Constraints for Developing a Value Added Forest Products Industry in the Yukon: Peter Drake.

Mr. Drake gave a brief presentation on the general principles of value added operations and reviewed some potential value added opportunities applicable to the Yukon. Mr. Drake concluded that it appears that there are some potential value added opportunities currently suitable for the Yukon, although these are highly dependent on world markets which can change rapidly. A large scale dimensional sawmill would need to compete with southern mills for markets and prices. For this reason, Mr. Drake concluded that a large-scale commodity mill would likely not be economically feasible in the Watson Lake area unless there is a significant and consistent increase in world lumber prices, which is not foreseen at the present time..

The Role of Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs) in Forest Management Planning: Heinz Sauer

This unscheduled presentation was added at the request of some participants, who felt that there was too much emphasis at the Summit on timber industry interests, and not enough attention being paid to the roles of the RRCs in forest management planning.

Mr. Sauer, from the Selkirk RRC, emphasized the importance of respecting First Nation Final Agreements in forest management planning, taking a community based approach and working with local RRCs. He also noted the importance of improving our approach to fire management and protection in the communities. He also noted that it will be important for all RRCs to work together in developing a coordinated approach for forest management in the Yukon.

3.2 Workshop Discussions: Forest Industry Development in the Yukon

After the presentations, discussion groups were formed to discuss the key questions: What kind of industry do we want in the Yukon? and, What should governments do to help the development of the industry?

The key points made by participants regarding the development of a forest industry in the Yukon are summarized in the following text:

A) Support for a Yukon Forest Industry

Summit participants generally supported the development of a timber industry for the Yukon. Related comments included:

- A timber industry can provide important jobs, create spin-offs, and strengthen the economy.
- In developing a timber industry, both economic costs and benefits should be identified.
- Industry has high costs in the Yukon. Currently, industry has a low margin potential.

B) What Type of Forest Industry Do We Want?

General Comments:

Participants made a number of general comments on the forest industry. These included:

- Forest industry development should include consideration of all aspects of the forest economy, including logging, milling, trapping, tourism, outfitting, and wilderness guiding, etc.
- Industry must be economically viable on its own and be able to adapt to market changes.
- Industry development should benefit local communities and reflect local interests.
- Industry development must be ecologically sustainable on a long-term basis.
- Industry must be able to adapt to regional differences in markets, interests and resources.

What Kind of Industry is Suitable for the Yukon?

Participants made a number of comments regarding the type of industry that would be suitable for the Yukon. These included:

- Operators should decide what type of industry to develop, based on available resources and markets.
- Industry needs to stay flexible, so it can adapt to resource and market changes.
- A diversity of small, medium and large industry players should be supported.
- Industry sizes should match the available sustainable timber resource.
- Monopolies should be avoided.
- Value added operations should be encouraged.
- Raw log exports should be avoided, however in some circumstances they may be the only viable opportunity.

C) What Governments Can Do to Assist the Development of the Industry ?

Participants noted a number items that governments can do to assist the industry. These included:

- Develop secure long-term timber tenures.
- Develop transitional tenures to meet industry's immediate timber needs while long term tenures are being developed.
- Complete forest management plans to identify areas for timber harvesting.
- Collect accurate resource inventories, complete Timber Supply Analyses (TSA) and determine Annual Allowable Cuts (AAC).
- Develop a coordinated forest industry development strategy.
- Work with industry members in planning, promoting and developing the industry.
- Plan and facilitate improved road access to timber areas.
- Facilitate the development of improved skills and infrastructure, such as dry kilns and improved grading capabilities.
- Streamline government planning and permitting processes.

3.3 Plenary Presentations on Forest Tenure and Allocation:

Forest Tenure Options for the Yukon: Michael Hiet.

Mr. Hiet reviewed general principles related to developing timber tenures and discussed a number of options that could be considered for the Yukon.

The "Forest Authority" Tenure Model: Bill Brown.

Mr. Brown reviewed the experience of the Algonquin Forestry Authority in Algonquin Park, Ontario and outlined some of the potential implications for exploring a similar model elsewhere.

3.4 Workshop Discussions: Forest Tenure and Allocation for the Yukon

After the plenary presentations, participants formed discussion groups to deal with the issues of tenure design and allocation. The key points made by participants regarding these issues are summarized in the following text.

A) Support for improved timber tenures:

There was strong support amongst Summit participants for the development of new timber tenures in the Yukon. Comments included:

- Improved tenures are a fundamental requirement of the industry.
- Tenures will clarify roles, responsibilities and expectations for all participants.
- Improved tenures will help to create a more stable and environmentally sustainable industry.
- Long term tenures are required for financial security.

B) Principles for the development of new tenures:

Participants noted a number of general principles for the development of new tenures:

- All forest values and interests need to be addressed in the planning and design of timber tenures, including timber industry, trapping, outfitting, mining, tourism, conservation and First Nation interests.
- Transitional timber tenures and harvest volumes should not utilize the entire Timber Supply Analysis (TSA). They should be conservative and allow for growth.
- Tenure design needs to be coordinated with our overall forest management and industry development strategy.
- Tenures must be linked to the sustainability of the resource base.
- There should be Yukon-wide consistency in the tenure models used, however they should also be flexible enough to be able to adapt to regional differences.

C) What kind of tenures are required:

Participants had a number of suggestions as to what types of tenures are needed in the Yukon.

- Industry needs long term tenures. Some participants suggested 10 – 15 year tenures.
- A diversity of tenure types is needed to accommodate the diversity of operators. Options include industrial tenures, wood lots, forest authorities, timber permits, and salvage tenures.
- Both small and large scale tenures are needed, as well as short term and long term tenures.
- Long term tenures should be renewable based on performance.
- Both volume based and area based tenures are needed.
- Transitional tenures are needed to meet immediate timber needs while long term tenures are being developed.
- Tenures should be transferable.
- Permitting requirements and processes need to be streamlined.

D) Timing for the development of tenures:

Industry participants felt there was an urgency to the timing of developing new tenures and stated that :

- Improved long-term timber tenures should be developed as soon as possible.
- Transitional tenures are required immediately to meet short term industry needs.

E) Process for developing new tenures:

Participants had a number of suggestions as to what steps should be followed in the development of new tenures. Comments included:

- Governments and stakeholders should establish a multi-stakeholder group to develop Yukon-wide tenure guidelines that can be fine-tuned at the regional level.
- Regional social, economic and environmental objectives should be identified.
- Ideally, land claims, land use plans, forest management plans, long term Timber Supply Analyses (TSA) and Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) determinations should be completed before allocating long term tenures.

- In the absence of completed land claims, plans, TSAs or AACs , transitional "non contentious" harvest areas and "comfort cut" harvest levels should be identified in consultation with stakeholders and communities. "Comfort cut" levels should be conservative to keep future options open.
- Tenures should be developed in consultation with stakeholders and the community.
- Transitional tenures should be bankable and have long-term security based on performance.
- Actions to address the tenure issue should be focused on the current problem areas, which are the southeast Yukon and Haines Junction areas.

F) Allocation of timber tenures:

Participants made a number of different suggestions on the process that should be followed in allocating timber tenures:

- A priority should be given to allocating timber to Yukon operators and existing facilities.
- Allocations should be based on the evaluation of proposals.
- Non-Yukon firms should be allowed to bid.
- The evaluation process should involve community consultation and public review.
- Some participants supported an allocation process that would include the following:
    - (i) Government first sets broad social / economic and environmental objectives for the forest industry in the area.
    - (ii) Government then asks for expressions of interest from industry.
    - (iii) Based on the expressions of interest received, government then determines the type of tenures to be developed and issues a request for proposals.
    - (iv) Industry submits proposals.
    - (v) Government reviews and evaluates the proposals based on identified criteria.
    - (vi) Government allocates and awards the tenures.

4.0 Day 3: Theme: *Putting it All Together*

4.1 Plenary Presentations on Putting it All Together

The third day began with a brief presentation by Minister Dale Eftoda. He emphasized that government would take the results of the Summit seriously and encouraged participants to generate a list of action items for governments to focus on.

Mr. Glen Sigurdson, the plenary facilitator, then made a presentation on his observations of the Summit so far. He summarized the status of the workshop under the following questions and challenges:

1. What will it take for governments to support a long term sustainable future for the forests of the Yukon that respects all uses and users. (high beam challenge), and,

2. What will it take to support the growth of a sustainable industry in the short term, before the completion of land claims, resource inventories and forest management plans, in a way that recognizes that the use of any resource in the forest must co-exist with other uses. (low beam challenge)

Mr Sigurdson made the following suggestion for a transitioning procedure for the short-term (low beam) challenge:

a) The nature of the proposed uses is understood.
b) The profile of the forest and the users is understood.
c) The status of the available information is shared.
d) The tenure being sought after and a transitioning agreement are gained.
e) The instruments to do the work are obtained.
f) One instrument will be specifically to resolve differences.
g) A declaration will give force to the procedure.

Mr. Sigurdson suggested the following actions for the long-term (high beam) challenge:

a) Show co-operation and the will to respect all uses of the forest
b) Settle land claims.
c) Complete devolution and create a Forest Policy and a Forest Act.
d) Establish an agreed supply/inventory.
e) Invest in planning, training and initiatives, with no subsidies.
f) Build an industry strategy for high potential areas.

g) Build capacity and competency in all governments.
h) Promote forestry through education and public awareness.
i) Correct stumpage and transfer policies.
j) Establish a scientifically based Annual Allowable Cut (AAC).
k) Proceed with Landscape Level Planning that involves RRCs for settled areas and surrogates in unsettled areas.

Mr. Sigurdson concluded by noting that the common vision for Yukon forests needs to provide for the integration of values and a protocol for consultation. It also needs to show who should take the lead and illustrate the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders and parties.

Integrating Forest Management and Industry Development Interests:
Brad Stelfox.

Mr. Stelfox identified general principles regarding the integration of forest management and development interests, reviewed experiences in Alberta on how resource development has affected forest management in the province, and made some preliminary observations as to how this information could be used in the Yukon.

4.2 Workshop Discussions: Where Do We Go From Here?

In almost all discussion sessions during the Summit, participants made numerous suggestions on what actions need to be taken to improve forest management and development in the territory. For the sake of report organization, even though these comments were made in several different sessions, they are brought together here and summarized below.

A) Take Action Now

There was a clear message that action must be taken quickly. Comments included:

- We need to move beyond generalities and go forward with consistent actions.
- This summit should provide direction to governments and the Premier.
- Don't delay. Don't drop the ball. We need to move quickly.

B) Principles for Taking Action:

Participants identified a number of principles for action:

- All forest related values, interests and uses must be considered.
- We need to think long term.
- We need to follow the provisions of the First Nation Final Agreements.
- Community-based involvement is important.
- Planning processes must include all stakeholders. This includes industry, communities, the public and all land users.
- Don't reinvent the wheel. Use the principles and policies that we already have from the Yukon Forest Strategy, the Canada Forest Accord, the National Forest Strategy, the UFA etc.

C) Government to take Leadership and Coordination Role:

Many participants commented on the need for stronger government leadership and coordination:

- Governments, including YTG, need to take a stronger leadership role in forestry.
- Governments should clarify their respective roles and responsibilities.
- We need stronger cooperation and coordination between all levels of government, including YTG, DIAND and First Nations.

D) Action items:

Participants identified action items to be undertaken:

<u>General action items:</u>

- Land Claims should be completed.
- Devolution should be completed.
- A new Yukon Forest Act needs to be developed.

<u>Planning action items:</u>

- Regional land use plans need to be done.
- Forest management plans should be completed Yukon wide.
- Governments need to determine what the forest resource base is, establish a Timber Supply Analysis (TSA) and determine an Annual Allowable Cut (AAC).
- Information related to forest inventories and timber supply needs to be made public.

Industry strategy action items

- Governments need to develop a forest industry strategy.
- Governments need to develop more efficient permitting and planning processes.
- Governments should lead industry promotion and infrastructure development.

Timber tenure action items:

- Governments need to develop new long-term timber tenure models for industry.
- A variety of tenure options should be explored and developed.
- Governments need to make transitional tenures and interim wood supplies available as soon as possible to meet the immediate timber needs of industry.
- A priority should be given to working in the areas with the most need, the southeast Yukon and the Haines Junction area.

Given the numerous above action items that participants had already identified earlier in the Summit, the facilitator charged discussion groups on the last day to focus on the following two questions:

How do we get there?	Who takes the lead?
Prepare now, don`t delay	YTG and all players
Develop cooperation and political will	All 3 governments
Clarify how all departments in all governments will work together will work together	All 3 governments
Make funds available for Devolution, Land claims and FMPs	All 3 governments
Settle outstanding land claims	All 3 governments
Make devolution happen	All 3 governments
Make a Yukon Forest Policy and Yukon Forest Act	YTG and First Nations

Develop a Yukon forest timber industry strategy	Industry and YTG Ec Dev
Establish tenure	YTG and First Nations
Do Regional Land Use Plans	All 3 governments
Coordinate different interests with communities including the management of access.	All players
Move on landscape level planning	Govt's, RRCs, RLUPCs
Do Forest Management Plans	RRCs, with support from ZGov't
Complete TSAs and AACs	All 3 governments
Finish the DAP	All 3 governments

4.3 Final Plenary Discussion: Conclusions and Action Items

The final discussion session was held in plenary. To facilitate discussion, the plenary facilitator, Glen Sigurdson presented a draft set of conclusions and actions for discussion. He then led the group through a consensus building process to reach general agreement on the following items.

1. Strategic Items

- Recognize the realities and work with them. All interests and values, uses, and users must be respected.
- Build from existing commitments, including the UFA, RRCs and community based planning.
- For non-settled areas, (areas without Final Agreements), planning should be modeled on RRC based planning, provided that the affected First Nations agree.
- Focus on each area as a distinct area.

2. Forest management

- Support for holistic, community-based forest management planning processes, including First Nations.
- Funding for forest management planning requires a YTG lead with DIAND, First Nations and communities participating in the process.
- RRCs will require financial assistance.

- Expertise – All parties need to cooperate in finding and using the required expertise.
- Information – data and information is the responsibility of all parties.
- Leadership – YTG lead.
- Coordination – YTG lead, building on the recognized role of RRCs.
- Public education – all parties.

3. Information

- Begin immediately building credible, accessible, reliable information bases.
- Full disclosure of inventory and all Timber Supply Analyses
- Re-run the Timber Supply Analyses using a variety of scenarios.
- Explore mechanisms for modeling future forests.

4. Tenure

- Transitional and long term tenure are needed.
- Need to create a basis for economic, social, and environmental security, and the sustainability of enterprises and communities.
- The question of logs for export needs to be addressed.
- Explore alternative tenure approaches, methods and models.
- All interests and values of all forest users will be respected and addressed.
- Create a Yukon-wide stakeholder body to develop tenure guidelines quickly, which will be adjusted at the local level.
- Some ideas for transitional tools and steps:
  (i) Transitional tenure may be useful for the Watson Lake area and similar areas with immediate tenure needs.
  (ii) Establish a socially accepted "comfort level " AAC to be used until the completion of land claims and regional forest management planning.
  (iii) Issue Requests for Proposals and then issues tenures based on this "comfort" level TSA, with the support of credible, transparent, reliable, unbiased, and defensible information and expertise.
  (iv) Develop instruments such as a "Letter of Intent" for long term tenure with a renewable clause based on performance.
- While we work on transitional tenures, begin a process now of developing long term tenures. These tenures should be at least 3 years, preferably more like 15 years, with 5-year renewals based on performance. The tenures should be consistent with community based requirements. They should be adaptive and ecosystem based. All approvals must be consistent with UFA requirements.

5. Focused action within the next 4 months

- Focused action is required for Watson Lake and other communities where a similar level of industry interest is present, such as Haines Junction.
- An intergovernmental MOU or Accord should be developed to mandate and support a community-based regional forest management planning and tenure process in the southeast Yukon.
- Work on transitional tenures immediately.
- Industry needs a 5 year volume based renewable tenure now. This should roll into a longer- term tenure, based on a professional, credible, transparent process, within a comfort level based on community involvement.

4.4 Workshop Closing

Following the above discussion, the workshop facilitators made some closing remarks and complemented participants on their constructive and cooperative participation.

Yukon Forest Summit was closed with a prayer by Johnny Sam, elder, Carmacks First Nations.

APPENDIX A:

FOREST SUMMIT WORKSHOP AGENDA

April 10: Theme: *Managing the Forest Resource*

8:30 – 9:15	**Opening:** Opening and welcome Opening addresses:	 *Duffy / Sigurdson* *Minister Pat Duncan* *Minister Dale Eftoda* *Chief Bob Charlie*
9:15 – 9:45	**Plenary:** Overview of Yukon Forest Resources	*Ed Van Randen*
9:45 - 10:00	**Coffee Break**	
10:00 – 10:50	**Plenary:** Different Uses of Yukon Forests	*Panel*
10:50 –11:10	**Plenary:** Aboriginal Perspectives on Yukon Forests	*FN Speaker*
11:10 – Noon	**Breakout Group Discussions:** What key questions and issues need to be addressed in this Summit?	
Noon – 1:00	**Lunch**	
1:00 – 1:30	**Plenary Discussion:** Results of breakout group discussions.	
1:30 – 1:50	**Plenary:** Existing forest management commitments: UFA, YFS, gov't policies, Canada Forest Accord	*Barney Smith* *Bob Friesen*
1:50 – 2:20	**Plenary:** Forest management planning in the Yukon	*Shawn Francis*
2:20 – 3:00	**Plenary:** Current community-based FMP processes	*Mike Crawshay / Ryan Perry*
3:00 – 3:15	**Coffee Break**	
3:15 – 4:30	**Breakout Group Discussions:** Forest management planning	
4:30 – 5:00	**Plenary Discussion:** Reports from the breakout groups	

April 11: Theme: *The Yukon Forest Industry*

8:30 – 9:00 **Plenary:** Current status of the Yukon forest industry *Consultant*

9:00 – 9:45 **Plenary:** Opportunities and constraints for developing a value added forest products industry in the Yukon *Peter Drake*

9:45 - 10:00 **Break**

10:00 – 11:30 **Breakout Group Discussions:** Forest industry development

11:30 – 12:00 **Plenary Discussion:** Reports from the breakout groups

12 noon – 1:00 **Lunch**

1:00 – 1:45 **Plenary:** Forest Tenure Options for the Yukon *Michael Hiet*

1:45 – 2:30 **Plenary:** The "Forest Authority" Tenure Model *Bill Brown*

2:30 – 3:00 **Break**

3:00 – 4:30 **Breakout Group Discussions:** Forest tenure and allocation

4:30 – 5:00 **Plenary Discussion:** Reports from the breakout groups

April 12: Theme: *Putting It All Together*

8:30 – 9:00 **Plenary:** Review of Summit discussions so far *Duffy /Sigurdson*

9:00 – 9:45 **Plenary:** Integrating forest management and industry development interests *Brad Stelfox*

9:45 - 10:00 **Break**

10:00 – 11:30 **Breakout Group Discussions:** Integrating forest management and development interests

11:30 – 12:00 **Plenary Discussion:** Reports from the breakout groups

12 noon – 1:00 **Lunch**

1:00 – 1:30 **Plenary:** Where do we go from here? *Duffy / Sigurdson*

1:30 – 2:45 **Facilitated Group and Plenary Discussion:**
Where do we go from here?
Recommendations from the Summit

2:45 - 3:00 **Closing**

APPENDIX B

List of Yukon Forest Summit Participants

Chief Bob Charlie	Champagne/Aishihik First Nations
Chief Robert Johnson	Kluane First Nation
Mike Crawshay	Alsek Renewable Resources Council
Terry Hanlon	Carmacks Renewable Resources Council
Bill Bowie	Dawson District Renewable Resources Council
Ron Cruikshank	Yukon Land Use Planning Council
Charlie James	Carcross Area Advisory Planning Committee
Tom Cove	Southeast Yukon Lumberman's Assn.
Bernard Luken	
Bob Studds	Studds Air Photo & Mapping
Duke Connelly	Association of Yukon Communities
Don Hutton	Renewable Resources
PatTobler	Enviromutual Dynamics
Collin Remillard	Liard Plywood & Lumber
Les Laverdure	White Spruce Mills
Jack Smith	
Robin Sharples	
John Bartlett	DIAND
Amos Westropp	DIAND
W.J. Brown	
Kerry Rees	Southeast Yukon Proper Land Use Society
Doug Hogan	Yukon River Timber
Vladimir Petrlak	Forest Eng. Borealis
Don Oulton	South Yukon Forest Corporation
Gerald Isaac	Yukon Land Use Planning Council
Doug Urquhart -	
Brandy Greenwood	Teslin Renewable Resource Council
Leonard Peterson	Trans North Timber
Kerry Minor	
Dean Hassard	Teslin Wood Harvesters & Manufacturers Ass.
Kent Jingfors	YTG – Fish & Wildlife Branch
Albert Peter	First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun
Nancy Huston	
Blaine Walden	Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon
Andrea Altherr	Frances Lake Wilderness Lodge & Tours
Ulla Rembe	
Jackie McBride-Dickson	Dakwakada Forest Products
Lorelei Smith	Yukon Forest Industry Assoc.
Oliver Oien	Yukon Forevergreen Wood Products
Jean Legare	Southeast Yukon Proper Land Use Society
Doug Clark	Kluane National Park & Reserve
Randy Lamb	YTG – Environmental Assessment
Rick Ward	YTG – Wildlife Management
Ed Van Randen	YTG – Renewable Resources
Kelly Hayes	Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board
Barney Smith	YTG – Renewable Resources
Erik Val	YTG – Renewable Resources
Heinz Sauer	Selkirk Renewable Resources Council-
Ryan Perry	

Lyall Gill	
Terry Kennedy	DIAND Forest Resource
Lorne Gay	DIAND Forest Resource
Sue Olsen	Yukon Conservation Society
Richard Rodger	Bonnet Plume Outfitters
Brenda Lucas	
Don Trudeau	Selkirk First Nation
Ken Kiemele	YTG Renewable Resources
Jim Slater	Association of Yukon Communities
Manon Moreau	YTG – Renewable Resources
Geraldine Pope	Kluane First Nation
Joshua Smith	
Dave Loeks	
Shannon Carr	
Ian Church	DIAND
Jerome McIntyre	YTG – Renewable Resources
David Johnny	Selkirk Ren. Res. Council
Sharon Peter	
Shawn Francis	Applied Ecosystem Management Ltd.
Johnny Sam	Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation
Gord Allison	
David Kushniruk	Dakwakada Forest Products
John Bastone	Yukon River Timber Ltd.
Bill Oppen	YTG – Renewable Resources
Bob Friesen	Friesen Rea
Harvey McGowan	
Billy Blair	White River First Nation
Karen Baltgailis	Yukon Conservation Society
Rob Florkiewicz	YTG – Renewable Resources
Blanche Warrington	Teslin Tlingit Council
Brian Pelchat	YTG – Renewable Resources
Heidi Istchenko	
Boyd Campbell	
Kathy Alfred	Selkirk First Nation
Melynda McGinty	Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation
Dwayne Battaja	Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation
Dennis Buyck	Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation
David Silas	
Dean Gill	
Al Beaver	DIAND
Dennis Fentie	MLA, Watson Lake
Dan Cresswell	Carcross/Tagish First Nation
Jack Dennett	EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd.
Michael Heit	
Val Loewen	YTG – Renewable Resources
Sylvie Binette	
Ken Fleet	DIAND
Ryan Parry	
Christoph Altherr	
Mo Van Nostrand	
John Des Rosiers	Frontier Lumber
Ryan Sealy	
Frank Patterson	Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation
Jan Adamczewski	YTG – Renewable Resources
Gordon Harvey	Ta'an Kwach'an Council

APPENDIX C

Yukon Forest Summit: Compendium of Presentations

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5. Current Status of the Yukon Forest industry: *Terry Kennedy*
6. Opportunities and Constraints for Developing a Value Added Forest Products Industry in the Yukon *Peter Drake*
7. Forest Tenure Options for the Yukon: *Michael Hiet*
8. The Algonquin Forest Authority *Bill Brown*
10. Integrating Forest Management and Industry Development Interests: *Brad Stelfox*
11. Umbrella Final Agreement: Chapter 17 Forest Resources

A complete bound set of the presentation materials is available by request from

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